## **Keith Experts** Put Vaudeville To Acid Test

Programs for Many Months Ahead Analyzed, Then Filed Away to Await the **Proper Time for Premiers** 

Just as the magazine editors are now working on their coming Christmas and New Year's editions, so the busy ville Exchange, in the Palace Theater

cle-of-thumb affair, relying upon preedent or the "custom" of the theater. science based upon a persistent and conditions and facts in the current the-E. F. Albee, president of the Keith Vaudeville Circuit and of the Keith Vaudeville Exchange, whose offees fill the Palace Theater Building to overflowing and annex neighboring and illuminating intelligence system that brings to him the most varied and interesting data of the stage throughout the nation.

His headquarters staff work upon this, document it, analyze it, make charts and tables, summarize it, and in the end it comes to Mr. Albee as charted, plotted and commented upon ance company or a Standard Oil report upon a business field. Mr. Albee, as field marshal reviews the findings of his experts and lays down the laws and principles which govern the major strategy of Keith vaudeville amusement campaigns. The amount of information studied is amazing.

At the present time summer amusements are in full swing in the Keith houses and the programs are all worked out on scientific warm weather lines. Summer has its own special conditions which must be met intelligently and accurately, and the "big time" house on Broadway requires one policy and the

where the bill must be essentially opceding years are carefully reviewed. theater. There are elaborate reports upon their From all of which it will be seen tess in Boston and go all wrong in good of player folk and manager.

Each city and each theater in each ity has its idiosyncrasies. Audiences in the two-a-day are nowhere just alike in their demands. Brooklyn

The booking men have a heavy bur-East, South, Middle West, West, Southwast, Northwest, all with broad territhe Pacific Coast demand very special and Gareth Hughes. gional amusement appetites.

The children have to have special attention in framing programs for the midwinter holidays and the school holidays. The booking men have to keep track of the big conventions and cater to the delegates and their families. For instance, the Keith bill at Atlantic City during the Elks convention was worked out months ago.

Of course, the bills are elastic, and at the last minute may be improved by desirable acts becoming available and being added to the program. There is nothing rigid or set about Keith bookings, the Albee idea being to improve up to the day of opening if improvement is possible.

Mr. Albee in his strategy considers business conditions national and local; he receives statistics of the legitimate theater, the burlesque circuits and of the circuses. He has accurate statements of the relative popularity of concert, opera, legitimate, vaudeville, burlesque and all forms of "hall" shows.

He investigates new fashions in intertainment and is the first to disover new trends in amusement. If Russian art has a vogue you will find Keith audiences getting a dash of the best in Muscovite dancing and music. If the crook play or mystery play is the rage you will immediately find that Keith vaudeville has some snappy crook

and mystery playlets. Mr. Albee is a pioneer. He first saw the theatrical possibilities of jazz sic and syncopated orchestras and festered them on his circuit; he was the first to realize the hold that modern dancing has upon the public and he ingaged all the leading ballroom teams for his theaters. He encouraged classial and interpretative dancing for years More the public was educated to it as in Europe. Now as a result of his ampaign there is a vast, discriminating and appreciative public in this country for the highest forms of the dance. to in many other directions Mr. Albee has been an innovator.

For some time Mr. Albee has been

In the Broadway Picture Houses



deeply pondering the intensification of the community theater influence upon civic life. He believes that the theater must go ahead along lines of becoming "big time" house at a summer resort a more vital part of community life, getting in closer and more intimate The inland theater calls for one touch with its patrons and playing an hend of acts and the seashore house expanded rôle. Not alone entertainfor a quite different one, and every- ment service, but civic service, must be nosed to the ones framed for mid- Keith neighborhood theaters are putwinter. Looking forward to next sea- ting local talent on their stages, offersee, the history of acts in all the ing prizes for amateur artists and aidhouses during the last season and pre- ing and encouraging beginners in the

popularity, the "spots" best suited to that ruling the Kingdom of Vaudeville new Spanish dance which she executes in his affiliation with Goldwyn. The them, their relation to other acts on the is not a leisurely job with cut and in her picture, "How Women Love," bill and their general amusement dried rules. As a matter of fact, the which is nearing completion at the value. Thus the precise entertainment public likes and dislikes are continu- Whitman Bennett Studio. Maria Palay, afficiency of an act or artist is dis- ally changing and have to be watched who was at one time with Adolph Goldwyn studios within the next ten covered and the findings govern the with catlike attention. And besides all Bohm, is Miss Blythe's teacher, territory to be covered in the future this Mr. Albee is the busiest theater bookings and the position on the bill. builder in the world, with \$10,000,000 There are famous acts which are a invested in new structures now under "fot" on Broadway and a "flop" in way. But above all, he is engaged Stracuse. There are arrangements of heart and soul in working with the time acts on a bill which register suc- vaudeville artists for the common

#### Complete List of Stars

For "The Christian" Several more well-known names have been added to the cast of "The Chriscares greatly for "kid" acts and animal tian" which Goldwyn is producing acts, while in Chicago they are not under the direction of Maurice Tourfor "wise cracking" or sophisticated Horatio Drake, Claude Gillingwater will comedy, while New York cannot get it play Lord Stom, Beryl Mercer, who was toe topical or too much in the nature brought from New York by Goldwyn of a Broadway family joke appreciated a few weeks ago to play in "Broken Chains," and Harry S. Northrup, who had the part of Lord Robert Ure in an den on their shoulders in suiting each the ster and each city and then the Cyril Chadwick has arrived from New Cyril Chadwick has arrived York to assume this rôle in the Goldwyn version. Others in the cast are orial differences. New England and Richard Dix, Mae Busch, Phyllis Haver



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# "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" Filmed With Notable Cast

aps the most widely read story in Ichabod. Broadway screen early in October. It is hard to understand why a film edi-

popular best sellers they seem to have organization is adhering very closely tained people of all ages and nationalities for nearly a hundred years. Fortyeight editions are now in print, and there are fifty-three different publishers. The story has been translated use in business schools and on phonograph records in schools of phonetic instruction. Its producers assert they are putting into the production the tremendous investment that would have been paid for the rights of such a story had it been necesary to purchase right expired, the rights cost abso-

The superstitions and fears of the natives of the sequestered valley of Sleepy Hollow are an intimate part of the book lore of youthful America, Hill and Ann Eggleston. racing steed mounted by the mysterious "Knighthood Was in Flower" headless horsemen have disturbed the childhood dreams of five generations. The cast of the picture is regarded as Crane, the lanky Yankee schoolmas-collector and shipped to New York. ter. All of the habits and eccentricities of the itinerant pedagogue will be

Hollow, whose wiles stir up hopeless Marion Davies in the star role.

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," per- ambitions in the narrow breast of

A year of preparation was required ion of this quaint classis has not been could be put upon the screen. All of While producers have vied with each other to secure the rights to produce other to secure the rights to produce Sieepy Hollow locations. The Ciancy

The long-remembered midnight chase of the hapless Ichabod by the Headless Horseman will be built into a dramatic climax, and it is expected to provide into school readers, into shorthand for Headless Horseman; or, the Legend of Sleepy Hollow." The picture will be distributed through the W. W. Hodkinson Corporation.

The cast of principals engaged for prominent supporting parts are May Robert Ayerton, George Pelzer, Charles Graham, Maree Trudeaux, Phil Munn Charles Hancock, Harold Crane, Nancy Chase, Kay MacCausland, Edna Brice, Jack Gardner, G. Wallman, Gardner James, Sheridan Tanzey, Jerry Devine, Knox Kincaid, Henrietta Floyd, Maude

### To Use German Armor

Two suits of tilting armor that were flawless. Will Rogers, who fits the once a part of the collection of the part as though he has been Irving's former German Emperor have been inspiration, plays the rôle of Ichabod purchased in Berlin by an American art

given life on the screen-his class in hood of 500,000 marks for each suit. psalmody, his fear of the supernatural, and what is amazing German art colhis love of bounty and, principally, his lectors most is its destiny in a motion hopeless infatuation and subsequent picture. The armor is of the fifteenth disappearance from the drowsy Hudson | century period and was made by Susen-Lois Meredith plays the charming Knighthood Was in Flower," which is Katrina Van Tassel," belle of Sleepy now being filmed by Cosmopolitan, has

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